

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (original) A pharmaceutical preparation for hearing impairment, which comprises a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) gene as an active ingredient.
2. (currently amended) The [[A]] pharmaceutical preparation for hearing impairment according to claim 1, which comprises a plasmid of a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) gene as an active ingredient.
3. (currently amended) The [[A]] pharmaceutical preparation for hearing impairment according to claim 1, which comprises a virus envelope vector encapsulating a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) gene or its plasmid as an active ingredient.
4. (original) The pharmaceutical preparation for hearing impairment according to claim 3, wherein the virus is one member selected from the group consisting of Sendai virus, retrovirus, adenovirus, adeno-associated virus, herpes virus, vaccinia virus, pox virus and influenza virus.
5. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical preparation for hearing impairment according to claim 1, wherein the hearing impairment is deafness.
6. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical preparation for hearing impairment according to claim 1, which is an agent for preventing hearing impairment.
7. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical preparation for hearing impairment according to claim 1, which is a therapeutic or ameliorating agent for hearing impairment.

Claim 8 (canceled)

9. (original) A method of treating hearing impairment, which comprises administering, to a patient with hearing impairment, a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) gene or a plasmid of a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) gene in an amount effective for the treatment.